

20190521 West Tisbury Shellfish Advisory Committee Meeting

May 21, 2019, Town Hall 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Rick Karney, Will Whiting, David Merry, Virginia Jones, Jason Gale, John Hoy

Also Present: Ray Gale, Kent Healy, Jen Rand

Jen explained the hiring process for a Shellfish Agent and suggested that there are a lot of questions about the supervision, scope of duties, will there be enough work for the projected hours, is there a clear chain of command and list of duties.

Suggests readvertising the job as a part time position and an understanding that the person hired will be called when needed. Ray volunteered to funnel the jobs and supervise, and the committee suggested a clear path forward.

POSSIBLE TASKS and regular duties: Work closely with the MV Shellfish Group during spawning periods and work with Isaiah to coordinate the two sides of the Pond activities. Coordinate shellfish and water quality projects and information between the various Great Ponds and other water bodies.

Commission boat and engine, outfit, make sure it is registered and winterized when necessary and that the boat is properly outfitted, as well as on a mooring.

Set up tanks, possible upweller (future), arrange for shell/cultch, make bags, set up storage facility (container at Fire Station Number 1) to store all equipment safely.

Monitor shellfish during the summer for problems, monitor tanks, remote set, bags, etc.

Make sure that the shell storage area is cleaned up and the Land Bank is consulted before use

Take people out for water testing (Sheri Caseau from MVC, DMF personnel, etc.)

Provide info to people on Pond

Eyes and ears on the ground

Report to Ray and to BOS

The group voted to recommend that the BOS open commercial clamming on May 25th, close it June 13th. Limit of 2 orange wash bushels a day on Tues – Sat. MS and V 5 to 1 to approve.

Discussion took place about the horse power of outboards on the Pond – a 10 hp limit was voted in 1976 and has been pending coordination with Chilmark. This was recently re-proposed by the Shellfish Warden and has now been adopted by the Con Com as their initiative. There are speed limits on Menemsha Pond and on Great Ponds state wide, including Edgartown Great Pond which has a HP limit.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia C. Jones

